

CLAIMS

1. A non-woven mat of inorganic fibre having a substance (weight/unit area) which varies in the cross direction, the edge margins being of lower substance than the remainder of the mat.
2. A method of making a non-woven mat of inorganic fibre having a substance (weight/unit area) which varies in the cross direction, the edge margins being of lower substance than the remainder of the mat, comprising:
 - passing a forming wire past a slurry of inorganic fibres in a liquid while masking a part of the forming wire as it passes through the slurry, the said part corresponding to an edge margin of the formed mat and the masking varying along the length of the forming wire as it passes through the slurry; and
 - urging the slurry against the forming wire and causing the said liquid to pass through the forming wire, whereby a non-woven mat of inorganic fibre is formed having an uneven substance (weight/unit area) in the cross direction.
3. A method according to claim 2 in which the masking decreases in the direction in which the forming wire passes the slurry.
4. A method according to claim 2 or 3 in which the masking is achieved by passing the face of the forming wire remote from the slurry across a blinding plate as it passes the slurry.
5. A method according to claim 4 in which the effective width of the blinding plate decreases in the direction in which the forming wire passes the slurry.
6. Apparatus for forming a non-woven mat of inorganic fibre

AMENDED SHEET

having a substance weight unit area which varies in the cross direction comprising:

a source of a slurry of inorganic fibre in a liquid;
a forming wire disposed to move past the source, through
which, in use, the liquid passes to deposit the inorganic fibre on
the forming wire;

a mask across the part of the width of the forming wire
corresponding to the edge margins of the formed mat to hinder
passage of the liquid through the forming wire over the said part,
the effectiveness of the mask varying in the direction of movement
of the forming wire past the source.

7. Apparatus according to claim 6 in which the effectiveness of
the mask decreases in the direction in which the forming wire is
disposed to move.

8. Apparatus according to claim 6 or 7 in which the mask is a
blinding plate impinging the face of the forming wire remote from
the source of slurry.

9. Apparatus according to any of claims 6, 7 or 8 in which the
effective width of the blinding plate decreases in the direction in
which the forming wire passes the slurry.

10. A cementitious board having a sheet of a non-woven mat of
inorganic fibre according to claim 1 embedded immediately below at
least one surface.

11. A cementitious board having a sheet of a non-woven mat of
inorganic fibre embedded immediately below at least one surface
wherein the permeability of the mat to cementitious slurry varies
across the mat.